



CP-1744

Exter Docket No. DDR 5455
W&W Docket No. 1417B P 316

PATENT #10

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re U.S. Utility Patent Application of:)

Arnold C. BILSTAD, Bradley H.)
BUCHANAN, Alan W. MARTTILA,)
and Archie WOODWORTH)

Serial No. 09/294,964)

Filed: April 20, 1999)

For: METHOD AND APPARATUS FOR)
MANIPULATING PRE-STERILIZED)
COMPONENTS IN AN ACTIVE)
STERILE FIELD)

Examiner: I. Soubra

Art Unit: 1744

161700 MAIL ROOM

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SUPPLEMENTAL INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT

Commissioner of Patents
Washington, D.C. 20231

Dear Sir:

Pursuant to 37 C.F.R. §§ 1.97 and 1.98, Applicants submit herewith Form PTO-1449, "Supplemental Information Disclosure Statement," and a copy of each reference listed therein.

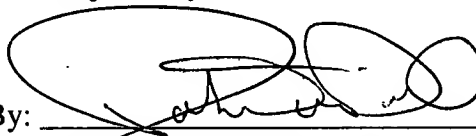
Pursuant to 37 C.F.R. 1.97(e), the Applicants, through the undersigned attorney of record, hereby state that each item of information contained in the accompanying Form PTO-1449 was cited in a communication from a foreign patent office in a counterpart foreign application not more than three months prior to the filing of this statement. Accordingly, no fee is required.

The references listed on the accompanying Form PTO-1449 were cited by the European Patent Office in a communication from the International Searching Authority in connection with a PCT application that claims priority to the above-identified application. A copy of the communication bearing the date of mailing of March 2, 2001 is submitted herewith along with Form PTO-1449 and copies of the references listed thereon.

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The Examiner is requested to consider carefully the complete text of the enclosed references in connection with the examination of this Application. It is requested that the listed references be made of record and included in the "References Cited" portion of any patent issuing from this Application.

Respectfully submitted,



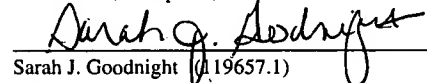
Dated: April 4, 2001

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CERTIFICATE OF MAILING

I hereby certify that this document is being deposited with the United States Postal Service as first class mail, postage prepaid, in an envelope addressed to: Commissioner of Patents, Washington, D.C. 20231, on April 4, 2001.



Sarah J. Goodnight (119657.1)